

VETERANS UPDATE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY, 2019

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that Veterans can register for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games online Jan. 7 through April 15.

Presented by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, the world's largest sports event for Veterans who use wheelchairs will be held July 11-16 at Robley Rex VA Medi-

cal Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I encourage every Veteran interested in competing at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games to register for this important event," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The games exemplify VA's commitment to supporting Veterans as they navigate through recovery and rehabilitation to active, inde-

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Panera Bread Recruiting Event, Employment Resource Center, T35, Providence VAMC Campus. Veterans interested in working at a bakery-café, bring a resume and your DD214 to apply.

March 22, 1 - 3 p.m., Women Veteran Celebration, 5th Floor Auditorium, Main Hospital, Providence VAMC. Featured speaker will be Julie Mitchell, Veteran and CEO of Snaps to It, LLC.

pendent lives."

Athletes will compete in 19 events against others with similar age, experience and ability.

More information is available at <http://wheelchairgames.org>.

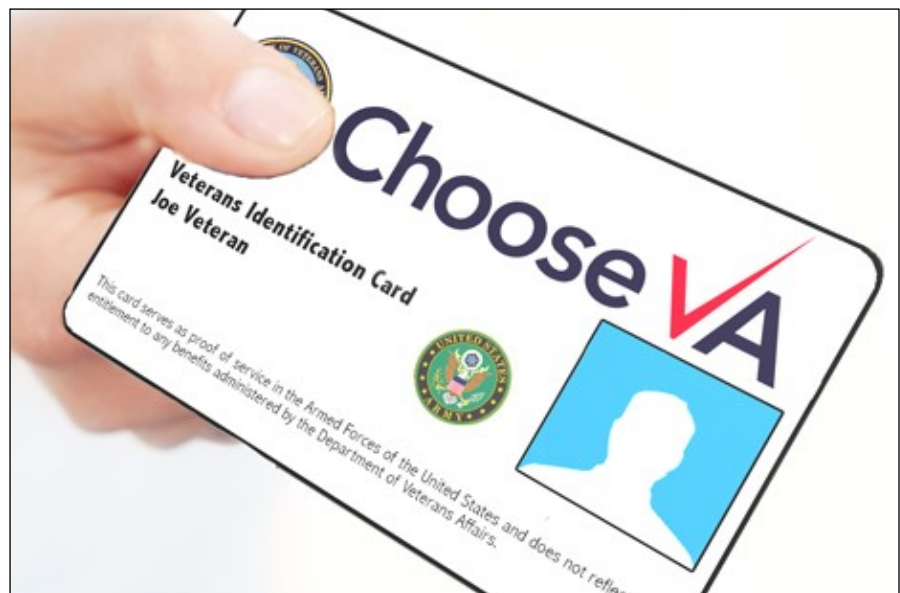
Follow VA Adaptive Sports on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @Sports4Vets.

VETERANS ID CARD AND THE VA HEALTH CARE ID

There's a difference between the VA Health Care ID Card, or VHIC, and the Veterans ID Card, or VIC, which is for all Veterans.

VA medical centers can only issue the VHIC to Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care.

Those interested in the VIC, which can be used in place of the DD-214 for discounts offered to Veterans by many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses, must apply online at: <https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic>.



SUICIDE PREVENTION DISCUSSION PANEL



Dr. Nathan Stein, VA psychologist, talks about the clinical care available to help prevent Veteran suicide during the Veteran Suicide Prevention Discussion panel at the Providence VA Medical Center Jan. 24, 2019. Other panel members, seated from left to right, are Dr. Jennifer Barredo, VA research health scientist, Jeanne Smith, Providence VAMC suicide prevention coordinator, and Jeffrey Hill, Rhode Island Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program manager. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

The Providence VA Medical Center hosted its Veteran Suicide Prevention Discussion Panel Jan. 24, which was attended by Veterans, congressional staff, state government officials, veteran service organization and other nonprofit representatives, VA clinicians and other VA staff.

Panel members Dr. Nathan Stein, VA psychologist, Dr. Jennifer Barredo, VA research health scientist, Jeanne Smith, Providence VAMC suicide prevention coordinator, and Jeffrey Hill, Rhode Island Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program manager, discussed ways VA can work with the community to help prevent Veteran suicide.

An average of 20 Veterans die by suicide each day, but 14 of those have not received recent VA care.

"We want to enroll as many at-risk Veterans as possible, but we also want to equip communities

to help Veterans get the right care, wherever they need it," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. "While VA care has proven to be effective, Veterans spend most of their time out in the community."

The Providence VAMC recently increased suicide prevention staff, and the team's participation in community events. Organizations interested in inviting them to participate in an event should call 401-273-7100, extension 2154.

The Mental Health Service at the Providence VAMC provides mental health care for Veterans at the Providence facility and at clinics in Middletown, R.I., and New Bedford and Hyannis, Mass. The Providence VAMC Emergency Department is open 24/7 for Veterans with urgent mental health care needs outside of regular business hours. Veterans in crisis and their loved ones can always call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

**Community Care /
Veteran's Choice Office**
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

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